



MENAI BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF

THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2885889x>

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MENAI BRIDGE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)..... 825 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident
population mid 1938.....1639.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1938)
according to Rate Book..... 600.

Rateable Value.....£9125.

Sum represented by a penny rate..... £35.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth Rate.

The number of births during the year was 21.
This number includes still births and is made up as follows:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live Births.			
Legitimate.....	20.	11.	9.
Illegitimate.....	0.	0.	0.
Still Births.			
Legitimate.....	1.	1.	0.
Illegitimate.....	0.	0.	0.

The Live Births Rate is therefore 12.2 per 1000 of the population. The Rate of Still Births per 1000 total (live and still) births is 47.6.

The Live Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.1 per 1000 of population.

The Local Live Birth Rate in 1937 was 9.6 per 1000 of the population.

The Local Live Birth Rate in 1936 was 12.4 per 1000 of the population.

The Local Live Birth Rate in 1935 was 11.2 per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate.

The number of deaths which occurred in the district during 1938 was 20 (10 males and 10 females).

After allowance is made for transferable deaths this number is increased to 25 (13 males and 12 females).

There were 3 deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

The causes of death in the case of these infants were Congenital pyloric stenosis, Prematurity and Intracranial Haemorrhage, and the death rate of infants under 1 year is thus 150 per 1000 live births.

There were no illegitimate infants in 1938.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths from			
Heart and circulatory disease....	9.	5.	4.
Cancer.....	5.	2.	3.
Measles.....	0.	0.	0.
Whooping Cough.....	0.	0.	0.
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	0.	0.	0.
Influenza.....	0.	0.	0.
Diphtheria.....	0.	0.	0.
Tuberculosis	see under Tuberculosis.		

The Death Rate for 1938 is 15.2 per 1000 of the population.
The Rate for England & Wales is 11.6 per 1000 of the population.

The Local Death Rate in 1937 was 21.1 per 1000 of the population.
The Local Death Rate in 1936 was 11.8 per 1000 of the population.
The Local Death Rate in 1935 was 11.8 per 1000 of the population.

When adjusted by use of the Areal Comparability factor the local death Rate becomes 11.7 which closely approximates the Rate for England and Wales.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The public health officers of the Authority consist of one part time Medical Officer and one part time Sanitary Inspector.

There are no changes to report in this area regarding the services listed below:-

- (a). Laboratory facilities.
- (b). Ambulance facilities.
- (c). Nursing in the Home.
- (d). Treatment Centres and Clinics.
- (e). Hospitals - public and voluntary.

Maternity, Child Welfare and Orthopaedic Services.

The local infant welfare centre holds its clinic on alternate Tuesdays for the benefit of mothers and infants who reside in the district and also those from the parish of Llandegfan. I must once more pay high tribute to the ladies who so regularly and readily give their valuable services in this centre.

The Doctor and the District Nurse are in attendance at each clinic. Help and advice are given on all problems of Nutrition, feeding and general ailments. Clothing is provided and arrangements are made for specialist treatment (eg. orthopaedic) when required.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There are no new sources of Water Supply and no important extensions of mains were made in 1938. Samples of water are taken four times a year for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

The analyst reported that the water was suitable for human consumption except regarding one sample which was due to a faulty tap as subsequently discovered.

There has been no important extension of sewerage and drainage.

No action was required to prevent pollution of rivers and streams.

There were no changes in public cleansing in 1938.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of complaints received during the year	7
Number of houses inspected.....	64.
Number of preliminary notices complied with.....	11.
Number of Houses disinfected or supplied with disinfectant during the year.....	43.

There are no swimming baths in the area, and no recognised camping sites.

The only school in the area is in excellent sanitary order.

No infestation with bed bugs was discovered.

HOUSING.1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

- 1(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 4.
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....25.

- 2(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932..... 4.
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....25.

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation..... 4.

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation....0.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year with Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers.....0.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9,10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....0.

- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 (a) By Owners.....0.
 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....0.

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....0.

- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

- (a) By Owners.....0
 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....0

3.(c). Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....4

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....4

(d). Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....0.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.....0.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year.....21.

(2) Number of families dwelling therein.....21.

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.....67.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0.

(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....1.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.....8.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....0.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health May consider it desirable to report.

18 Houses are to erected for relief of overcrowding.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. Registered Cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected.

(b) Slaughter Houses and Meatshops.
These have been regularly inspected.

(c) Instruction of Nutrition etc.

The M.O.H. gave a lecture on general health problems to school children and films were shown at the local cinema. These films dealt with matters of public health and general rules of health.

There are no shell fish beds in the area.

Inspection of Carcasses.

Cattle excluding cows: Cows: Calves: Sheep. Pigs.

Number killed	160.	0.	52.	2,500.	104
Number inspected.	90.	0.	35.	600.	30.

No carcasses were condemned.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

There was a severe outbreak of Diphtheria in the district in the autumn of 1938.

The number of cases totalled 32.

Although a full report of the outbreak was made at the time there are certain general observations to be made in connection with it.

1. Source of outbreak - unknown - possibly a "carrier" from outside the district.
2. Obvious need for immunisation of school children against the disease. Representations have been made to the County Authorities.
3. School closure during epidemic. In a small district like this, it is a very difficult question to decide, but parental control of contacts is often bad and school closure is apt to lead to mixing of healthy children who would normally be at school with contacts who would of course be at home or certainly out of school.
4. At the commencement there was not sufficient room at the County Isolation Hospital for all the cases notified. This was however remedied later on.
5. Proved efficacy of prompt serum injection. There was fortunately not a single death. Most of the cases were mild or moderate but a small percentage was of the severer type.

Cancer. There were 5 deaths from this disease in 1938.

All facilities for diagnosis and treatment of this disease are available at the Caernarvonshire and Anglesey Infirmary.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.....	0.	0.	0.
Scarlet Fever.....	6.	5.	0.
Diphtheria.....	32.	27.	0.
Enteric Fever.....	0.	0.	0.
Puerperal Pyrexia....	0.	0.	0.
Pneumonia.....	0.	0.	0.
other diseases.....	0.	0.	0.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under the public health Act, 1936 section 176.

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum reported.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1925, regarding persons employed in the Milk Trade suffering from Tuberculosis or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-.....								
1-.....								
5-.....								
15-.....						1.		
25-.....		1.					1.	
35-.....		1.						
45-.....								
55-.....								
65- an upwards.....								
	0.	2.	0.	1.	0.	1.	0.	0.

In view of the recent dramatic and proper publicity given to the abnormal prevalence of Tuberculosis in certain areas it is interesting to study the incidence of this disease in Menai Bridge during the period of 10 years (1929 -1938).

Deaths.

Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
6.	4.	0.	2.

The total deaths in this 10 year period amount to 12.
If 1690 is taken as the average population during this period the Death Rate is .71 per 1000 of the population.

Notifications.

Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
6.	7.	0.	5.

Out of these 18 notifications - Hospital treatment was refused in the case of 6 of them.

In 4 cases the disease was definitely contracted outside the district.

3 of the 18 were temporary residents.

Housing conditions, sanitation, pure food and milk supply, efficient disinfection, segregation etc. are all highly important factors in this disease, as in others, but it is vital to keep the whole picture in mind:

It is my opinion that the public should be educated to the importance of the Tuberculosis Hospital as a place of segregation equally as much as a place for the cure of the disease.

7.

A study of the Housing Conditions of the 18 notifications mentioned above proves to be interesting. The houses were divided into 4 categories and the number in each is given.

Excellent Houses	number of notifications.....	4.
Good Houses.....	number of notifications.....	9.
Average Houses.....	number of notifications.....	4.
Bad Houses.....	number of notifications.....	1.

(Signed): H.R.Fisher.
 M.O.H.

